

# Load Up the Woody: Portable Classroom Leads to Partnership

Jeanne Marie Le Ber, MLIS, Nancy T. Lombardo, MLS, John Bramble, MLIS and Alice Weber, MLS: Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah  
Juliana Szakacs, M.D., M.S.W., Department of Pathology, University of Utah, School of Medicine



## Opportunity

The Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library and the University of Utah School of Medicine realize an opportunity to partner technology and teaching utilizing the library's portable wireless classroom.

## Wireless Classroom

### 10 Laptop Computers

Gateway Solo 5300 SE  
700 MHz  
128 MB SDRAM  
6 GB hard drive  
12.1" display

### 10 Wireless Cards

Cisco Aironet 350  
IEEE 802.11b compliant  
128 bit encryption  
11 Mbps data rates

### 1 Wireless Access Point

Cisco Aironet 350  
IEEE 802.11b compliant  
128 bit encryption  
Typical range: 130 ft @ 11 Mbps, 350 ft @ 1 Mbps

### 1 Laptop storage cart

Space for 16 laptops  
15-outlet electrical unit to charge laptops  
Top shelf working space



## Partnership

### School of Medicine

#### Pathology Lab Course Master wanted to revise laboratory curriculum using patient cases and direct access to library resources

- In the pathology lab, students access library resources while studying the cases in small groups
- A web-based course to teach students to use electronic medical and radiology records related to the case
- Students answer specific case questions in small groups, and prepare and deliver a PowerPoint presentation in follow-up session



### Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library

#### The wireless classroom contributed in making this new pathology curriculum a reality

- Library faculty participate as information experts to guide the students in the use of the resources and provide PowerPoint instruction
- The wireless classroom is scheduled for 16 sessions
- Library systems staff provide support for setting up the laptops and ensuring access to the network
- Students with their own laptops can borrow a wireless card from the library to access the cases and resources

## Value Added

#### Positive aspects of the portable wireless classroom

- Cost effective
- Mobile: delivers instruction where and when it is needed
- Adaptable: increases the number of computers available for instruction
- Flexible: provides opportunities for expanded library education services

#### Portable wireless classroom led to a partnership with the School of Medicine that had important consequences

- Increased visibility of the library as a technology leader
- Students benefit from having library faculty guide them to quality information resources
- Students are exposed to online resources at point of need
- Students gain skills necessary for life long learning

